

Internship Opportunity- United States Department of Agriculture

Time of Program: May 2024- August 2024

Location: Virtual

Travel: Minimum Travel Required

Mentors: Michelle Flavin

Desired Skills: International experience, interest in regulatory policy, interest in global standard setting bodies, interest in technical capacity building, interest in innovative crop protection and sustainability.

Hosting Agency

The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) links U.S. agriculture to the world to enhance export opportunities and global food security.

FAS partners with more than 70 cooperator groups representing a cross-section of the U.S. food and agricultural industry and manages a toolkit of trade promotion programs to help U.S. exporters develop and maintain markets for hundreds of products. FAS also supports U.S. agricultural exporters through export credit guarantee programs and other types of assistance.

FAS expands and maintains access to foreign markets for U.S. agricultural products by removing trade barriers and enforcing U.S. rights under existing trade agreements. FAS works with foreign governments, international organizations, and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative to establish international standards and rules to improve accountability and predictability for agricultural trade.

Program Description

The intern for this program will work closely with USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service on a globally focused initiative aimed at building agricultural regulatory capacity with foreign partners in developing countries (Latin America, Asia, and Africa) with a focus on building resilience to pests.

Participants in this program will gain exposure in:

- Learning about scientifically sound approaches to pesticide maximum residue limits (MRL) regulations around the world.
- Working with international implementing partners (regional economic communities, foreign and domestic universities, international NGOs), as well as a team of regulatory and technical pesticide and biopesticide subject matter experts.
- The challenges of disharmonized pesticide regulations and their impacts on international trade for American and international farmers.
- Helping to build relationships between U.S. and foreign regulators.
- Pesticide and Biopesticide registration frameworks and guidelines
- Strengthening international standard-setting bodies like the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) under the framework of the World Trade Organization (WTO)
- Conducting pesticide residue field trials to enable better and more responsible uses of pesticides and biopesticides in developing countries throughout the world.